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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

S E C R E T

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REPORT

DATE DISTR. 14 March 1957

NO. PAGES 1

REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
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REFERENCES

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. Observations of Soviet engineer and tank troops at the Heide Kaserne, Halle.
2. Equipment of the engineer and tank troops.
3. Joint training of all arms, Soviet and East German Armies, in training areas near Halle.
4. Large-scale exercise on the Brandenbergen beginning 24 January 1957 of all arms of the Soviet division in the Heide Kaserne, Halle.
5. Arrangements for training of officers of the East German Army; Soviet advisers with the East German Army.
6. Soviet rail transportation exercise, 21 through 24 December 1956.

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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

SECRETEAST GERMANYMILITARYSOVIET & EGA ACTIVITY IN HALLE AREA

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(21 Dec 56 - 26 Jan 57)

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1. PERSONNELHEIDE Kaserne

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- (a) About 400 Soviet troops and 50 Soviet officers (Engineers) left the barracks for the Engineers Camp along the SAALE canal. For equipment see below.
- (b) By 26th January there were no Engineer Troops left in the HEIDE Kaserne.
- (c) 29th and 31st December: A total of about 200 Tank troops with their officers arrived at the HEIDE Kaserne from WÖRLITZ Kaserne. For equipment see below.

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2. EQUIPMENT

- (a) The Engineer troops in para 1(a) took with them:-
- 16 Amphibious tanks
 - 4 Large amphibious troop carriers
 - 4 Assault boats
 - 24 Lorries with trailers, loaded with 40 large pontoons inside which was tucked 40 smaller pontoons.
 - 2 Lorries with cranes mounted on them.
- (b) 2 large amphibious troop carriers and 2 amphibious tanks are undergoing repair at the HEIDE Kaserne.
- (c) The troops in para 1(c) above took with them to the HEIDE Kaserne:-
- 12 x T54s
 - 16 x JS3s
 - 8 x Towing vehicles with trailers on which were mounted radar equipment covered with tarpaulins.
- (d) 26th January: On the railway tracks near the JÜTERBOG Training Area Soviet Pioneer troops (Bautrupps) were seen training with portable railway loading ramps. Reconnaissance cars and lorries were being loaded.

3. GENERAL ACTIVITIES(a) Soviet/E. German Joint Training

Since the middle of January joint training of all arms has been taking place on the training areas near HALLE. Live ammunition is being used. Soviet

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/instructors

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instructors are demonstrating the newer weapons to the EGA, though it is noticeable that the EGA instructors, giving basic training to their own troops, use only older type weapons and vehicles such as T34s.

(b) Soviet Army Training on the BRANDBERGEN near HALLE

(i) Since 24th January a large scale exercise of all arms of the division in the HEIDE Kaserne has been taking place on the BRANDBERGEN by night and day. Civilians in the troop movement areas are turned back by Soviet sentries.

(ii) Light and Heavy Tank formations are being exercised in the combined use of radar and wireless. The infantry taking part have "Walky-Talkies" on a scale of one to 16 men.

(iii) On 24th January an EGA staff car with two senior officers was seen at the exercise, who appeared to be observing it.

4. SOVIET ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAINING OF E.G. FORCES

(a) It is reported that training is given by the Soviet Forces to E.G. officers at the following academies:-

Navy	-	LENINGRAD
Air-Force	-	MOSCOW
Army	-	DRESDEN

(b) It is rumoured that EGA officers will no longer be sent on courses to USSR, but only to the Military Academy at DRESDEN. Staff training lasts five years, but for ordinary officers, one year.

(c) Throughout the EGA Soviet Army instructors in EGA uniform are attached from company level upwards. Soviet liaison officers to the EGA wear Russian uniform.

5. RAIL MOVEMENT

ANGERSDORF Railway Station

(a) 21st to 24th December a Soviet rail transport exercise took place.

(b) 21st December: A train with the load detailed in (iii) below left ANGERSDORF Station [redacted] but without any details of destination being disclosed to the railway staff.

(c) 24th December: It returned intact [redacted] and the troops and vehicles as below were off-loaded, and returned to the HEIDE Kaserne:-

12 JS3s
16 T54s

About 200 Soviet troops with 26 officers.

26th December: The Engineer troops and equipment listed in paras 1(a) and 2(a) were observed to arrive and entrain at ANGERSDORF Station.
